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SUBJECT: KING ABDULLAH DISCUSSES POLICE/MILITARY TRAINING
FOR IRAQ AND U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITH CODEL DASCHLE

Classified By: Ambassador Edward W. Gnehm for Reasons 1.5 (b),(d)

SUMMARY

1. (S/NF) King Abdullah told CODEL Daschle January 20 that he shared their concerns over whether current training programs for the Iraqi military and police would allow Iraqis to assume responsibility for their own security without a significant U.S. troop presence. The King pledged that Jordanian special forces and military trainers would continue to play a "quiet" role in Iraq, but said that sending troops openly -- even in response to a request for Arab help by interim Iraqi PM Allawi -- was unlikely given Jordan's shared border with Iraq and the Hashemite link with the old Iraqi monarchy. The CODEL promised to help seek additional military assistance for the Kingdom in light of the challenges Jordan faced in securing its borders, especially with Saudi Arabia. End Summary.

IRAQI POLICE/MILITARY TRAINING

2. (C) Senator Minority Leader Tom Daschle and Senators Joseph Biden and Lindsey Graham (CODEL Daschle), accompanied by the Ambassador, met June 20 with King Abdullah in Amman. The CODEL briefed the King on their recent visit to Iraq, including their very favorable impression of interim Prime Minister Allawi, whom they described as a strong and realistic leader, and their concern over the unstable security situation. The Senators also shared their positive impressions of the Iraqi police training facility in Jordan, which they had just toured. While thanking the King for his efforts to help train the new Iraqi security services, the CODEL expressed doubts whether the Iraqi military and police would be able to maintain security without a substantial U.S. troop presence in the foreseeable future.

3. (C) The King agreed with the CODEL that the police training program should be extended if possible beyond the current 8 week duration given the limited skills of new recruits and the serious security challenges present in Iraq. The King said the same also applied with respect to the Iraqi military training program conducted in Jordan. The Jordanian armed forces, according to the King, are currently identifying the "cream of the crop" of Iraqis coming for basic military training and then bringing them back for further, advanced instruction at GOJ expense.

ON THE GROUND IN IRAQ

4. (S/NF) Responding to a question on deploying Jordanian security personnel, the King stated that a limited number of Jordanian special forces and military trainers were already "quietly" operating in Iraq. Sending additional forces, however, was a charged political issue that would depend on the stance of PM Allawi and other factors. A direct plea by Allawi for Arab help could pave the way for an open deployment of Jordanian security trainers, but the possibility of Jordanian troops on patrol in Iraq was unlikely given Iraq's shared border with Jordan and the Hashemite family's connection to the old Iraqi monarchy.

BORDER SECURITY CONCERNS

5. (S) The CODEL noted that Jordan had been a firm ally in the global war against terror and asked the King to briefly talk about his request for additional U.S. military assistance, which he had raised on Capitol Hill during his June visit to Washington. The King replied that although Jordanian forces were successfully policing the Iraqi and Syrian borders, they were stretched far too thin to adequately monitor Jordan's long, open border with Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah stated that Jordanian forces along the

Saudi border had already intercepted six or seven groups intent on "causing problems" in southern Jordan or crossing over into Israel. The requested \$400 million in military assistance would greatly help combat this potential threat, mainly by providing advanced technology and a C4ISR program to secure Jordan's borders. The King said that a specific breakdown of the request and the equipment desired had already been provided to the Pentagon.

16. (C) All three Senators said they understood Jordan's need for security assistance and were strongly supportive of the King's request for additional military aid. They pledged to work in Washington to seek additional funds for Jordan.

17. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

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